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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,288	09/19/2003	Nahced Visram	12361-10US-1 JEL	1520
7590		05/21/2007	EXAMINER	
Louis Tessier			VRETTAKOS, PETER J	
P.O. BOX 54029			ART UNIT	
CANADA, QC H3P3H4			PAPER NUMBER	
CANADA			3739	
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			05/21/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/666,288	VISRAM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Peter J. Vrettakos	3739	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-28,30,53 and 55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-28,30,53 and 55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The action is **final as necessitated by amendment**.

Claims 18-28, 30,53 and 55 are pending. Claim 18 is the lone independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 18-28, 30, 53 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eggers et al. (6,032,674) in view of Shah et al. (6,565,562) and further in view of Lesh et al. (6,650,923).

Eggers et al. (6,032,674) discloses a method of creating channels/holes/cell lysis (col. 3:34-36) in cardiac septal material (**“heart tissue” - includes septal material – col. 1:59-60, also inherently includes the fossa ovalis**) in which channels are created by delivering RF (col. 12:55) energy/current into material (see figure 11) from active electrode (first sentence of the Abstract) with distal region (200, figure 11) softer than a proximal region (344, figure 11) introduced through the vasculature (see figure 11) using a dilator (340, figure 11) and guiding sheath (col. 5:50-55; again see figure 11) aided with fluoroscopy/radiopaque markers/depth marker (col. 4:59-64).

Eggers et al. is silent regarding a grounding pad as the return electrode as well as creating a channel through "septal material". (Eggers does disclose that the return electrode need not be integral with the disclosed probe and therefore can be attached to a separate device (such as a grounding pad.) See col. 4:31-32, col. 5:55-57 and col. 10:28-30.

Shah discloses a channeling method analogous to Eggers in which a grounding pad (9) is used as a return electrode. Shah also discusses RF creation of a hole in the septal material ("atrial septum", col. 1:18-21 and col. 2:19-22).

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Eggers in view of Shah by including into the Eggers method a grounding pad as disclosed by Shah the motivation being to permit monopolar energy application by using a well-known and tested structure (grounding pad element 9) as seen in Shah figure 1. It would further be obvious to use the Eggers method for creating a hole in septal material the motivation being to "improve intertribal communication" posited in Shah col. 2:22.

Eggers/Shah is silent regarding pressure sensing.

Lesh discloses in an analogous procedure a pressure sensor for measuring blood pressure in both atria (col. 9:4-10) subsequent to locating the fossa ovalis (col. 3:7-17) through **radiopaque (col. 8:57-64, col. 7:27) staining (col. 4:29-33; col. 9:12-16 – after the puncture) with one opening (39-44-50).**

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Eggers in view of Shah and further in view of Lesh by

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including into the Eggers method pressure sensing as disclosed by Lesh the motivation being to permit measurement of blood pressure in order to determine location of the distal tip of the catheter (Lesh col. 9:4-10).

Note: Applicant's claim reads for at least two openings whereas Lesh discloses one opening (44-50; figure 3). Case law maintains the difference as being patentably insignificant. Also see MPEP § 2144.04(VI)(B). *In re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960) (*Claims at issue were directed to a water-tight masonry structure wherein a water seal of flexible material fills the joints which form between adjacent pours of concrete. The claimed water seal has a "web" which lies ** in the joint, and a plurality of "ribs" ** >projecting outwardly from each side of the web into one of the adjacent concrete slabs. <The prior art disclosed a flexible water stop for preventing passage of water between masses of concrete in the shape of a plus sign (+). Although the reference did not disclose a plurality of ribs, the court held that mere duplication of parts has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is produced.*).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to all pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Case law maintains that the difference in Lesh with one opening for delivering radiopaque fluid versus the Applicant's claim 18 with at least two openings is not patentably significant. See immediately above.

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Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter J. Vrettakos whose telephone number is 571-272-4775. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C. Dvorak can be reached on 571-272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Pete Vrettakos
May 8, 2007

W
J

Roy D. Gibson
ROY D. GIBSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER